

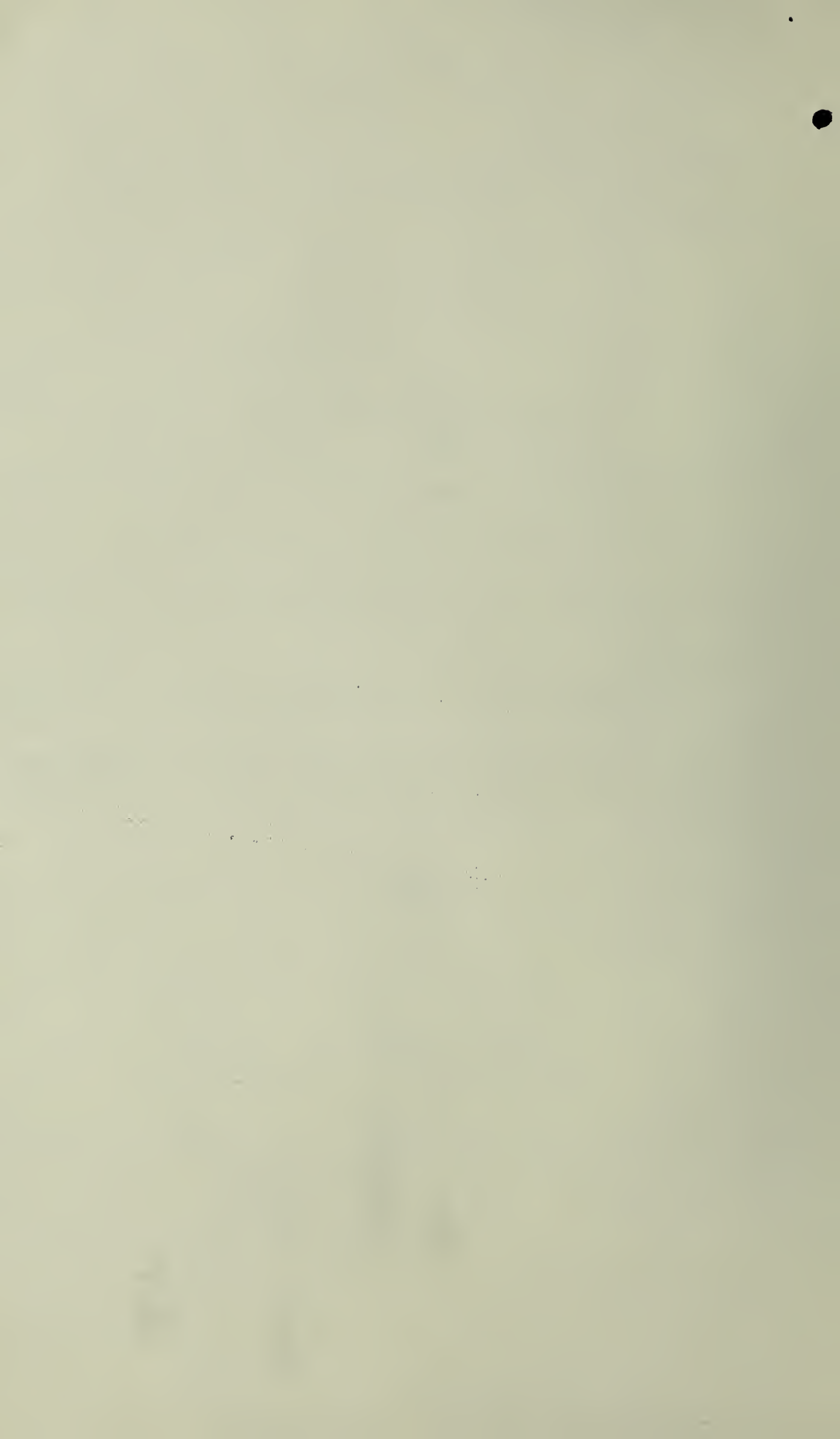
Builth Rural District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1957

Officials

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R. George, M.R.C.S.
L.R.C.P.
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector.....J.C. Bowen, M.R.S.H.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. M.A.P.H.I.





Builth Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

1957.

Mr Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary circumstances and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District during the year 1957.

In the preparation of this Report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/1958(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. The district has an acreage of 125,944 and is a large rural area situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire. It consists of almost one fifth of the whole county. The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. There are no large towns in the district.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate.	26.	24.	50.	
Illegitimate.	0.	1.	1.	
	26.	25.	51.	14.6.

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 16.1. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and was also higher than the district death rate, which is a satisfactory feature.

Illegitimate Births. One registered birth was illegitimate.

Still Births. There was one still birth in the district during the year, a boy. The still birth rate for England and Wales was 22.4. per 1000 live and still births, whereas the district rate was 19.2.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
	17.	14.	31.	8.8.

The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.5. The District rate therefore was lower than the national rate and was lower than the birth rate, which is a satisfactory feature.

Population.

Census, 1931.....4426.

Census, 1951.....3502.

Estimated midsummer 1957.....3490.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years is shown below.

<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>	<u>1954.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
3467.	3412.	3391.	3395.	3439.	3413.	3500.	3490.	3490.	3490.

The population dropped considerably between the last two census years, but in the last ten years has remained roughly stationary.

Maternal Deaths. No deaths occurred during the year which could be attributed to childbirth. This is a satisfactory feature.

Builth Rural DistrictDeaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....Nil.
 Respiratory tuberculosis.....Nil.
 Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
 Cancer.....10.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. No such deaths occurred in the district during the year. The national rate was 23.0. per 1000 live births.

Number of inhabited houses. This number 1060 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.3.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths.

Males, 17 Females 14.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	4.....	1.
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	0.....	1.
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	0.....	1.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	3.....	0.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	0.....	2.
Coronary disease.....	1.....	3.
Other heart disease.....	7.....	4.
Bronchitis.....	1.....	0.
Hyperplasia prostate.....	1.....	0.
Other defined causes.....	0.....	2.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. No changes of officers occurred during the year, Mr J.C. Bowen remaining as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Hereford. All water and milk samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Carmarthen whilst an investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the same laboratory.

Nursing and other facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing service. The County also administers the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Builth Hospital.

The arrangement for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Builth Rural District Council

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water supply to the various parts of the district are derived mainly from springs. In one case the source is a shallow well. During the year the supply of water has been satisfactory at the source but there were occasional shortages due to mechanical failure. During the year the water supplies were reasonably adequate, with the following exceptions. Beulah village well was flooded on 25th September and water was carried there for a few days. Nant-yr-onen supply became inadequate from 17th June-2nd August and water was also delivered there. Chlorinators were installed in Cilmeri and Gwenddwr.

The water supplies in the district are now controlled by the new Builth and District Water Board. The major water scheme was approved during the year and, when further information is obtained, it is hoped to go to tender early in 1958.

Number of visits to water supplies.....79.
General visits in connection with water supplies.....86.

Water Samples

Public Supplies. The number of samples from public supplies sent for bacteriological examination was 37. Of these 24 were reported as satisfactory and 13 as unsatisfactory. In addition, 40 samples were taken from private sources and private proposed supplies. 18 were reported as satisfactory and 22 as unsatisfactory.

There was a steady demand for the sampling of proposed farm supplies comprising improvement schemes under the Hill Farming Act, 1946, and a considerable amount of advice was given on the selection and protection of various proposed schemes.

Drainage and Sewerage. Good progress was made on the new sewerage works at Erwood and Llangammarch during the year. In Gwenddwr the plans were prepared and submitted to the Ministry. The District Valuer was also instructed concerning the necessary land.

In addition the disposal site at Llanwrthwl was re-fenced and further portions of sewer were replaced in spun iron piping to avoid subsoil and water infiltration. The proposal here is to lay relief drain direct to river, tanking of manholes and improvement of works.

Adequate methods of sewage disposal are connected very closely with an increased supply of water and it is to be hoped that both these matters will receive attention in the near future.

Number of visits to sewage disposal sites.....35.
Number of general visits in connection with drainage.....95.

Builth Rural District Council

Public Cleansing. The scheme inaugurated in 1952, provides for the collection of refuse at fortnightly intervals, from properties along the roads throughout the greater part of the district. The scheme is carried out by a contractor and tips are provided at Hay Road (Builth Wells) and at Beulah. These tips have finished their useful life, were sealed off and finished. Tipping commenced at Llanafanfechan whilst the Llanynis site still awaits planning approval. Rhayader Council was approached concerning limited tipping at Newbridge. No reply had been received at the end of the year. The six monthly collection at Capel Rhos was extended to take a further 4 farms. There was a very satisfactory response to the scheme and very great quantities of accumulated refuse have been disposed of. The refuse disposal scheme for Llanwrthwl forms a separate contract and all refuse collected there is disposed of at the tip near the village.

Number of visits made to refuse tips.....39.
 Number of general visits in connection with refuse.....51.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector, Mr J.C. Bowen. The following details give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances

Number of complaints received.....51.
 Number of complaints investigated.....51.
 Number of premises revisited.....42.
 Number of notices served.....Nil.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature that they require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Common Lodging Houses There is no common lodging house in the district.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....11.
 Number of notices served.....0.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits.....12.

Shops Acts.

Number of inspections made.....0.
 Number of notices served.....0.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....7.
 Number of visits made.....9.
 Number of notices served.....0.
 Number of defects found.....2.
 Number of defects remedied.....2.

Camping sites. There is one recognised camping site in the district, at Cilmerly. Two unlicensed sites at Aberduhonw came into being and were extensively used. The matter was taken up with the owner who was advised to seek Planning and Public Health Act Licences. Shortly afterwards the use was discontinued.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be infested with bugs during the year.

Builth Rural District CouncilRodent Control

Number of premises inspected.....	1130.
Number found infested.....	250.
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator.....	248.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....	2.
Number of dead rats picked up.....	794.
Number of dead mice picked up.....	140.

All dead rats. picked up are buried.

<u>Treatment of sewers.</u>	24th July-----Oaklands sewer.	
	Number of baits	20.
	Number of takes	20.
	Number of dead rats picked up.....	3.

Refuse Tips.

The following tips were treated regularly.

1. Beulah. (Discontinued as from coming into operation of tip at Rhosforlo)
Number of dead rats picked up-----17.
2. Hay Road. Discontinued as from operation of tip at Rhosforlo.
A major infestation occurred here during April 4th--9th.
78 dead rats picked up during this period. In all 99 were picked up.
3. Llanwrthwl. Number of dead rats picked up-----21.
4. Builth U.D.C. Tip
This is situated in Builth R.D.C. Referred to Builth U.D.C. and, after treatment, 30 dead rats were picked up.
5. Rhosforlo Tip.
Came into operation during the year.
4 dead rats picked up.

Legal Proceedings. No legal action was taken by the Council during the year.

Section 4. Housing. No houses were built by the Council during the year.
Consideration was given to the building of houses at Erwood and Cilmerly and the building of 12 houses at Erwood was commenced. The building of houses in Gwenddwr and Llangammarch was also considered.

Number of houses built by private enterprise.....	0.
Number of houses built by Council since war.....	40.
Number of houses built by private enterprise since war.....	17.
Number of applications for improvement grant received.....	11.
Number of applications for improvement grants approved.....	7.
Number of private houses built during the year.....	3.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, Article 31.

One demolition order was made during the year and the house was subsequently demolished. The slum clearance programme for Llangammarch was also considered. Undertakings not to re-let were accepted in respect of eleven properties.

Rural Housing Survey. Details of parishes surveyed.

<u>Llandewicwm</u>	Number of houses.....	120.
	Number unfit.....	10.
<u>Llangynog.</u>	Number of houses.....	6.
	Number unfit.....	1.
<u>Llandulas.</u>	Number of houses.....	41.
	Number unfit.....	2.

One Certificate of Disrepair was issued.

Builth Rural District CouncilSection 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.MilkRecord of Inspections and Milk Testing.

Number of inspections of vehicles.....37.
 Number of samples taken, and were satisfactory.....15.
 Seven samples were also taken and examined for tuberculosis. All were reported negative.

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of distributors.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in your area and all meat is supplied to the district from what was the Ministry of Food Slaughtering point in Colwyn Rural District, and also from a newly opened slaughterhouse in Builth U.D.C.

Ice Cream Premises. There were two retailers of ice cream in the district, one new being registered during the year. Also sold by mobile van.

Number of inspections.....11.
 Number of Notices..... 3.

Food Premises. The following food premises remained in operation at the end of the year.

Grocers.....	17	(one supplying ice cream)
Public houses and hotels.....	11.	
Dairies.....	1.	
Cafes.....	1.	
Market Halls.....	1.	

The district is also served by various mobile retailers operating from Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells and Newbridge.

Facilities for the disposal of condemned food are available at the Gas Works.

Food Preparation Rooms.

Number of visits.....21.
 Number of Notices..... 8.

Educational Activities. No such activities occurred during the year.

Other general visits, not specified above.70.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

Measles.....	77.
Acute lobar pneumonia.....	1.
Influenzal pneumonia.....	2.

As will be seen the district experienced quite a severe epidemic of measles during the year. All the above cases were nursed at home. No deaths were caused by cases of infectious disease.

Under the Health Act, all fees for the notification of infectious disease are now refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of notifications are received by the County Council.

Builth Rural District Council

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an arrangement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years:

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	13.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	2.
Number of deaths during the year.....	0.
Number of cases removed as disease arrested.....	0.
Number of cases which left the district.....	1.
Number of cases left on register at end of the year.....	14.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:

1946.1947.1948.1949.1950.1951.1952.1953.1954.1955.1956.1957.

4. 1. 1. 1. 1. 9. 1. 0. 4. 3. 4. 2.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the New Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George.

Medical Officer of Health.

